

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COSTS NEEDED  
TO ADDRESS EXCESS BODY MITIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF CORONER  
FISCAL YEAR 2006-07**

The following funding needs are identified by the Department of Coroner to address the excess body population in the crypt areas:

**CORONER ANNEX BUILDING** (52.1 to 86.8 million)

The current coroner biological building was built in 1970 with a capacity to hold 265 bodies. By the early 1980s, caseload far exceeded the facilities' original capacity, which prompted the implementation of a capitol projects to convert an existing garage in the loading docks for decedent storage. In later years, continued caseload increases mandated two add on crypts in the loading dock area, which eventually raised the capacity to 325. However in the early 1990s, this capacity was also exceeded. At this time, delays and body stacking were commonplace. In the mid-1990s the Coroner experienced a higher than normal increase in TB PPD conversions of its employees and numerous studies by experts (including Cal OSHA) focused on the building's HVAC system deficiencies in exhausting air from the biological areas. Board motions were authored to address the problem and temporary fixes were implemented. However, most experts recommended a new building, but funding for the county as a whole was a significant issue. In the late 1990s, seed money was set up in capitol projects to address the feasibility of a building/refurbishment and several studies were completed which strongly recommended a new building. Currently, caseload continues to cause significant problems similar to past issues. The Coroner recommends support for the acquisition of a new biological building annex.

**SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

<b>Coroner Investigators</b>	<b>Pos. (2.0)</b>	<b>\$186,484.00</b>
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**Identifications/Notifications Unit Support**

This unit is responsible for establishing Identification of decedents and also conducting searches for the legal next of kin of a decedent. By law, the Coroner is required to demonstrate "Due Diligence" in his/her search efforts for the legal next of kin. These Coroner Investigators would augment existing staff to expand the operation of the two units to a seven-day per week operation. The additional staff would lessen the workload of the existing staff and spread the search efforts out to allow more concentrated focus in the respective searches.

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<b>Senior Typist Clerks</b>	<b>Pos. (2.0)</b>	<b>\$106, 415.00</b>
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### Notifications Unit/County Disposition Death Certificates

Two STC 's will be responsible for the preparation of required letters, permits and death certificates necessary to facilitate the release of human remains for County Disposition and the coordination of the release of those bodies to the County Morgue and/or contractor. Currently, this process is handled by part-time student workers who must also travel to Pasadena and Long Beach to file the appropriate paperwork. (Paperwork for these two cities cannot be filed with the Los Angeles County Registrar.)

<b>Senior Forensic Attendant</b>	<b>Pos. (1.0)</b>	<b>\$ 59, 169.00</b>
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### Decedent Services Unit

These two positions will provide continuity of supervision during the early morning hours where there currently is no line supervision. There is currently only 20 hours of line supervision on the Security Floor. These supervisors could better use available staff to pull County Disposition cases, crypt management, daily crypt reorganization, and ensure that hospital cases continue to be brought in throughout the business day and address unprocessed hospitalized cases into the FSC. Additionally, these classifications can provide additional security of the facility and monitor activity on the service floor of all personnel.

<b>Forensic Attendant</b>	<b>Pos. (1.0)</b>	<b>\$ 54,205.00</b>
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### Decedent Service Unit

This position will be assigned to monitor and transport those cases identified as County Disposition cases and will transport them to the County crematory or private contractor as necessary.

<b>Contract Analyst</b>	<b>Pos. (1.0)</b>	<b>\$113, 005.00</b>
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The Department has no contract analyst or "expert" in this field. A contract analyst will develop and monitor not only a Cremation Services Contract, but also redevelop and monitor the Embalming contract, monitor and keep current the existing Autopsy Floor Cleaning Contract with Pedus and perform the same services for the sensitive TBI

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contract for Tissue recovery. Each of these contracts has a significant impact on decedent/Autopsy operations and body storage.

(Total S&EB	Pos. (11.0)	\$519, 278.00)
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**SERVICES AND SUPPLIES**

<b>Cremation Services Contract</b>	<b>\$ 87, 500.00</b>
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The department currently disposes of approximately 700 cases each year by county disposition and is totally dependent on the LA County Morgue for disposition of those remains. A contract for 350 cases will provide the flexibility to utilize other crematory services; maintaining a constant disposition schedule and alleviate a body storage backlog.

Total S&S	\$ 87, 500.00)
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**FIXED ASSETS**

<b>Cargo Van (1)</b>	<b>\$ 37,000.00</b>
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Decedent Services Unit

This Cargo Van will come equipped with external refrigeration and four-body hydraulic lift system. This vehicle will be used by the dedicated Forensic Attendant to transport decedents from the Coroner to the crematory or approved outside contractor for decedent disposition.

Salaries an Employee Benefits:	\$519,278.00
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Services & Supplies	\$ 87, 500.00
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Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 37, 000.00</u>
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TOTAL	<u>\$643, 778.00</u>
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